

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) Process for converting a monohydric secondary alcohol having 5 or more carbon atoms to the corresponding ketone, comprising converting said alcohol to form said ketone by fermenting said alcohol using a bacterium of the Gluconobacter and/or Acetobacter genus in a fermentation medium.
2. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, characterised in that the fermenting brought about using a bacterium of the Gluconobacter genus.
3. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 2, characterised in that the fermenting is brought about using a bacterium of the strain Gluconobacter sp. DSM 12884.
4. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, characterised in that the fermentation medium contains mannitol, malt extract, yeast extract, soya flour, cottonseed flour, wheat gluten, casein, casein hydrolysate, maize steep liquor, citric acid, acetic acid or mixtures or several of these constituents and has a pH of 4 to 8 at the start of fermentation.
5. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, characterised in that before fermentation, the bacterium used for fermentation is precultivated in a cultivation medium which contains mannitol, malt extract, yeast extract, soya flour, cottonseed flour, wheat gluten, casein, casein hydrolysate, maize steep liquor, citric acid, acetic acid or mixtures of two or more of these constituents and has a pH of 4 to 8 at the start of precultivation.
6. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, characterised in that fermentation takes place at a temperature of 20 to 40°C.
7. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, characterised in that the dissolved oxygen concentration in the fermentation medium is less than or equal to 5%.

In the Application of:
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Serial No.: New Application

8. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, characterised in that in the fermentation 2-pentanol is converted to pentan-2-one, 2-heptanol to heptan-2-one, 2-octanol to octan-2-one, 2-nonanol to nonan-2-one, 1-penten-3-ol to 1-penten-3-one, 1-hexen-3-ol to 1-hexen-3-one, 3-hexanol to hexan-3-one, 3-heptanol to heptan-3-one and/or 3-octanol to octan-3-one.

Claims 9-10 (Cancelled).